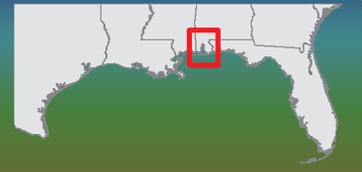




Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Mobile Bay Watershed

Coastal Alabama Comprehensive Watershed
Restoration Planning Project
(AL_RESTORE_003_000_Cat1)



Project Name: Coastal Alabama Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Planning Project - Planning

Cost: Category 1: \$4,342,500

Responsible Council Member: State of Alabama

Partnering Council Member: Environmental Protection Agency

Project Details: The Council will distribute funds to the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) for purposes of completing comprehensive Watershed Management Plans for 19 priority watersheds in coastal Alabama. The MBNEP adopted the Watershed Management Planning Protocol and prioritized 31 coastal and intertidal watersheds for the development of standardized comprehensive management plans designed to guide future conservation and restoration efforts. To date, four watersheds are complete with implementation projects underway; 10 others have been awarded funds through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (NFWF GEBF).

Activities: Watershed Management Plans will be produced for the following 19 coastal Alabama watersheds: Deer River; Grand Bay/Bayou Heron; Oyster Bay; Dauphin Island; Little Lagoon; Upper Blackwater; Rains Creek; Halls Creek; Negro Creek; Cedar Creek; Bayou Sara; Lower Chasaw Creek; Garrows Bend; Bay Minette Creek; Fly Creek; Bridge Creek/Perdido Bay; and Palmetto Creek, and the Tensaw Apalachee and Wolf Bay watersheds (which will be co-funded using NFWF GEBF funds). The planning process will be designed to build community partnerships; characterize current conditions in each watershed; identify goals and solutions for reducing pollutants entering the bay, sound, and Gulf waters; and establish implementation programs that include a schedule, interim milestones, criteria to measure progress, a monitoring component, information/education programs, and identification of technical and financial assistance needed to implement the plans.

Environmental Benefits: Watershed planning is foundational and sustainable and represents a prudent way to fully evaluate and assess each watershed, determine a suite of projects and programs targeted to improve ecosystem services within those watersheds, and - most importantly - target limited implementation funds to areas where they would result in the greatest benefit. The development of Watershed Management Plans is a foundational step in determining the critical ecological restoration needs for the watershed while incorporating best available science and community stakeholder input. Each plan will identify and describe future restoration projects, quantify the expected ecological benefits, and provide metrics by which to gage success.

Duration: It is expected to take five years to complete the Watershed Management Plans.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix F. Mobile Bay; Unique Identifier: AL_RESTORE_003_000_Cat1.



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Mobile Bay Watershed

Coastal Alabama Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Planning

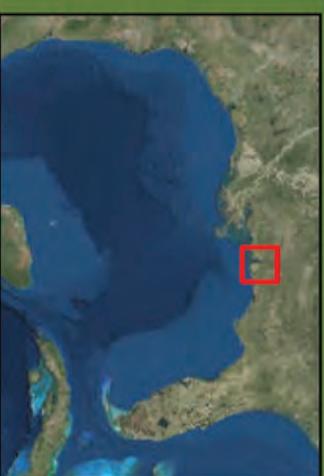
 Watershed Planning

Cost Category 1: \$4,342,500

Sponsor: State of Alabama

Project Status: Planning

Purpose: The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program will complete standardized comprehensive Watershed Management Plans for 19 priority watersheds in coastal Alabama. Upon completion, all priority coastal Alabama watersheds will have consistent, locally driven plans to guide future implementation of conservation and restoration efforts.



Map Date: October 14, 2015

Gulf of Mexico

Mobile Bay